

§ 400.26

(5) Statement as to environmental impact; and

(6) Any additional information requested by the Board or the Executive Secretary in order to conduct the review. The Executive Secretary may issue guidelines as to the kind of detailed information needed for various types of subzone cases.

(b) *Burden of proof.* An applicant for a subzone must demonstrate to the Board that the proposed operation meets the criteria in § 400.23(b).

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0625-0139)

§ 400.26 Application for expansion or other modification to zone project.

(a) *In general.* (1) A grantee may apply to the Board for authority to expand or otherwise modify its zone project.

(2) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Port Director, will determine whether the proposed modification involves a major change in the zone plan and is thus subject to paragraph (b) of this section, or is minor and subject to paragraph (c) of this section. In making this determination the Executive Secretary will consider the extent to which the proposed modification would:

(i) Substantially modify the plan originally approved by the Board; or

(ii) Expand the physical dimensions of the approved zone area as related to the scope of operations envisioned in the original plan.

(b) *Major modification to zone project.* An application for a major modification to an approved zone project shall be submitted in accordance with the format in § 400.24, except that:

(1) Reference may be made to current information in an application from the same applicant on file with the Board; and

(2) The content of Exhibit Four shall relate specifically to the proposed change.

(c) *Minor modification to zone project.* Other applications or requests under this subpart, including those for minor revisions of zone boundaries, grant of authority transfers, or time extensions, shall be submitted in letter form with information and documentation necessary for analysis, as determined

15 CFR Ch IV (1-1-04 Edition)

by the Executive Secretary, who shall determine whether the proposed change is a minor one subject to this paragraph (c) instead of paragraph (b) of this section (see, § 400.27(f)).

(d) *Applications for other revisions to grants of authority.* Applications or requests for revisions to grants of authority, such as restriction modifications, shall be submitted in letter form with information and documentation necessary for analysis, as determined by the Executive Secretary. If the change involves removal or significant modification of a restriction included by the Board in a grant of authority, the review procedures of § 400.32 shall apply. If not, the procedure set forth in § 400.27(f) shall apply.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0625-0139)

[56 FR 50798, Oct. 8, 1991, as amended at 62 FR 53535, Oct. 15, 1997]

§ 400.27 Procedure for processing application.

(a) *In general.* This section outlines the procedure followed in processing applications submitted under §§ 400.24-400.26. In addition, it sets forth the time schedules which will normally be applied in processing applications. The schedules will provide guidance to applicants with respect to the time frames for each of the procedural steps involved in the Board's review. Under these schedules, applications involving manufacturing or processing activity would be processed within 1 year, and those not involving such activity, within 10 months. While the schedules set forth a standard time frame, the Board may determine that it requires additional time based on special circumstances, such as when the public comment period must be reopened pursuant to paragraphs (d)(2)(v)(B) and (d)(3)(vi)(B) of this section.

(b) *Prefiling review.* Applications subject to § 400.29 shall be accompanied with a check in accordance with that section, and will be dated upon receipt at the headquarters of the Board. The Executive Secretary will determine whether the application satisfies the requirements of §§ 400.22-400.24, 400.25, 400.26, 400.32, and other applicable provisions of this part.

Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Commerce

§ 400.27

(1) If the application is deficient, the Executive Secretary will notify the applicant within 20 days of receipt of the application, specifying the deficiencies. The applicant shall correct the deficiencies and submit the correct application within 30 days of notification. Otherwise, the application (original) will be returned.

(2) If the application is sufficient, the Executive Secretary will within 45 days of receipt of the application:

(i) Formally file the application, thereby initiating the proceeding or review;

(ii) Assign a case docket number in cases requiring a Board order; and

(iii) Notify the applicant.

(c) *Procedure—Executive Secretary responsibilities.* After initiating a proceeding based on an application under §§ 400.24–400.25, or 400.26(b), the Executive Secretary will:

(1) Designate an examiner to conduct a review and prepare a report with recommendations for the Board;

(2) Publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the formal filing of the application and initiation of the review which includes the name of the applicant, a description of the zone project, information as to any hearing scheduled at the outset, and an invitation for public comment, including a time period during which the public may submit evidence, factual information, and written arguments. Normally, the comment period will close 60 days after the date the notice appears, except that, if a hearing is held (see, § 400.51), the period will not close prior to 15 days after the date of the hearing. The closing date for general comment will ordinarily be followed by an additional 15-day period for rebuttal comments;

(3) Send copies of the filing and initiation notice and the application to the Commissioner of Customs and the Port Director, or a designee;

(4) Arrange for hearings, as appropriate;

(5) Transmit the reports and recommendations of the examiner and of the officials identified in paragraph (c)(3) of this section to the Board for appropriate action; and

(6) Notify the applicant in writing and publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER of the Board's determination.

(d) *Case reviews—procedure and time schedule—(1) Customs review.* The Port Director, or a designee, in accordance with agency regulations and directives, will submit a technical report to the Executive Secretary within 45 days of the conclusion of the public comment period described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(2) *Examiners reviews—non-manufacturing/processing.* Examiners assigned to cases not involving manufacturing or processing activity shall conduct a review taking into account the factors enumerated in § 400.23 and other appropriate sections of this part, which shall include:

(i) Conducting or participating in necessary hearings scheduled by the Executive Secretary;

(ii) Reviewing case records, including public comments;

(iii) Requesting information and evidence from parties of record;

(iv) Developing information and evidence necessary for evaluation and analysis of the application in accordance with the criteria of the Act and this part;

(v) Preparing a report with recommendations to the Board and submitting it to the Executive Secretary within 120 days of the close of the period for public comment (see, paragraph (c)(2) of this section).

(A) If the report is unfavorable to the applicant, it shall be considered a preliminary report and the applicant shall be notified within 5 days (in writing or by phone) and given 30 days from the date of notification in which to respond to the report and submit additional evidence.

(B) If the response contains new evidence on which there has not been an opportunity for public comment, the Executive Secretary will publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER after completion of the review of the response. The new material will be made available for public inspection and the FEDERAL REGISTER notice will invite further public comment for 30 days, with an additional 15-day period for rebuttal comments.

(C) The Customs adviser shall be notified when necessary for further comments, which shall be submitted within 45 days after notification.

(D) The examiners report in a situation under paragraph (d)(2)(v)(A) of this section shall be completed and submitted to the Executive Secretary within 30 days after receipt of additional evidence or notice from the applicant that there will be none; except that, if paragraph (d)(2)(v)(B) of this section applies, the report will be submitted within 30 days of the close of the period for public comment.

(3) *Examiners reviews—cases involving manufacturing or processing activity.* Examiners shall conduct a review taking into account the factors enumerated in § 400.23, § 400.31, and other appropriate sections of this part, which shall include:

- (i) Conducting or participating in hearings scheduled by the Executive Secretary;
- (ii) Reviewing case records, including public comments;
- (iii) Requesting information and evidence from parties of record;
- (iv) Developing information and evidence necessary for analysis of the threshold factors and the economic factors enumerated in § 400.31;
- (v) Conducting an analysis to include:

(A) An evaluation of policy considerations pursuant to §§ 400.31(b)(1)(i) and 400.31(b)(1)(ii);

(B) An evaluation of the economic factors enumerated in §§ 400.31(b)(1)(iii) and 400.31(b)(2), which shall include an evaluation of the economic impact on domestic industry, considering both producers of like products and producers of components/materials used in the manufacture/processing or assembly of the products. The evaluation will take into account such factors as market conditions, price sensitivity, degree and nature of foreign competition, effect on exports and imports, and the net effect on U.S. employment;

(vi) Conducting appropriate industry surveys when necessary; and

(vii) Preparing a report with recommendations to the Board and submitting it to the Executive Secretary within 150 days of the close of the period for public comment:

(A) If the report is unfavorable to the applicant, it shall be considered a preliminary report and the applicant shall be notified (in writing or by phone) and

given 45 days from the date of notification in which to respond to the report and submit additional evidence pertinent to the factors considered in the report.

(B) If the response contains new evidence on which there has not been an opportunity for public comment, the Executive Secretary will publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER after completion of the review of the response. The new material will be made available for public inspection and the FEDERAL REGISTER notice will invite further public comment for 30 days, with an additional 15-day period for rebuttal comments.

(e) *Procedure—Completion of review—*

(1) The Executive Secretary will circulate the examiners report with recommendations to Board members for their review and votes (by resolution).

(2) The Treasury and Army Board members will return their votes to the Executive Secretary within 30 days, unless a formal meeting is requested (see, § 400.11(d)).

(3) The Commerce Department will complete the decision process within 15 days of receiving the votes of both other Board members, and the Executive Secretary will publish the Board decision.

(f) *Procedure—Application for minor modification of zone project.* (1) The Executive Secretary, with the concurrence of the Port Director, will make a determination in cases under § 400.26(c) involving minor changes to zone projects that do not require a Board order, such as boundary modifications, including certain relocations, and will notify the applicant in writing of the decision within 30 days of the determination that the application or request can be processed under § 400.26(c).

(2) The Port Director shall provide the decision as to concurrence within 20 days after being notified of the request or application.

[56 FR 50798, Oct. 8, 1991, as amended at 62 FR 53535, Oct. 15, 1997]

§ 400.28 Conditions, prohibitions and restrictions applicable to grants of authority.

(a) *In general.* Grants of authority issued by the Board for the establishment of zones or subzones, including